



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013

No. 71

## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, because You are our shepherd, we face the future with confidence. Keep our Senators humble as they seek to serve You and country. May they never forget Your kindness to them and this land we love. Remind them that You alone are the source of their strength and the shelter where they can find safety. Listen to their prayers and answer them, supplying all their needs according to the richness of Your grace and mercy. Lord, strengthen them for each challenge as You bless them in their going out and coming in. May they overcome cynicism with civility in all their relationships.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TIM KAINE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 20, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator

from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. KAINE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. today. At 3 p.m. the Senate will begin consideration of S. 954, which is the farm bill. At 5 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider two U.S. district court nominations: the Chappell nomination, from Florida, and the McShane nomination, from Oregon. At about 5:30 there will be up to two rollcall votes on confirmation of these nominations.

### THE FARM BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Democrats and the tea party-driven Republicans differ on many things, so it is remarkable and encouraging to see how well Senator STABENOW and Senator COCHRAN, the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, worked as a team to bring the ag jobs bill to the floor. Their work has been exemplary, some would say old-fashioned—the way things used to be.

The committee members included many of the amendments that were adopted last year when the Senate considered and passed a farm bill. As we will remember, it went to the House, and of course they did nothing. The committee did this in an effort to expedite the floor process which begins today. I hope their cooperative spirit

guides our work on this important legislation.

American farmers are counting on us, but so is the economy. Despite uncertain economic times, America's farms and ranches are the most productive in the world, exporting about \$150 billion worth of products last year and supporting 16 million private sector jobs. But to keep American farms strong, Congress must pass a strong farm bill. The legislation before this body will create jobs, cut taxpayer subsidies, and reduce the deficit. The bill includes important reforms to farm and food stamp programs and saves more than \$23 billion, which we will use to reduce the deficit. It will give farmers the certainty they need to maintain the largest trade surplus in any sector of our economy.

Helping American farmers thrive is an important part of our work getting the economy on firm footing again. Again, I commend Senators STABENOW and COCHRAN for their leadership on this important issue.

While the Senate has taken a lot of bipartisan action on the agriculture jobs bill, it has seen no progress on the important budget. Senate Republicans still refuse to allow us to negotiate with our House counterparts on a compromise that respects both parties' principles. It has now been 58 days since the Senate passed its budget, 58 days waiting for the Republicans to say: OK, let's try to work out our differences.

They have been talking for a couple of years now: What is wrong with the Senate? We don't follow regular order.

What does that mean? We don't follow the principles we have always followed.

They say they want to pass a budget so we can get to regular order. I guess they thought we could not pass a budget, because we passed one and now they refuse to go to conference. I think the main reason they are afraid to do that is that under the rules in the House, if

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S3589